

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-14 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03

INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 IGA-02 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /176 W
----- 025166

R 151015Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1464

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 6435

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, IN

SUBJECT: ENERGY: "SAGAR SAMRAT" TO BE IN POSITION FOR SECOND
BOMBAY HIGH WELL MAY 21.

REF: BOMBAY 1083 (NOTAL); B. NEW DELHI 3464

1. BOMBAY CONGENOFF REPORTED MAY 14 (REF A) THAT GOI-OWNED
OFFSHORE DRILLSHIP, SAGAR SAMRAT, WILL BE IN POSITION TO
BEGIN DRILLING

ITS SECOND WELL IN THE BOMBAY HIGH GEOLOGIC STRUCTURE MAY
21, ABOUT 300 METERS FROM H-1-1-1 (REFB). THE FIRST WELL WAS

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COMPLETED APRIL 8 AT A DEPTH OF 1,786 METERS (5,860)

AND OIL AND GAS TESTS CONDUCTED DURING APRIL 9-MAY 6. THE RIG MOVED TO BOMBAY PORT (MAZAGON DOCKS) FOR MINOR REPAIRS ABOUT MAY 10.

2. SAGAR SAMRAT'S "DISCOVERY WELL" (H-1-1-1) IN THE BOMBAY HIGH HAS BEEN JUDGED "PROMISING" BY ONGC, PETROLEUM MINISTRY AND OFFSHORE INTERNATIONAL PERSONNEL. L.T. GARRETT, OFFSHORE INTERNATIONAL, INFORMED CONGENOFF THAT TESTS WERE NOT AS COMPLETE AS HE WOULD HAVE LIKED, BUT HE IS NONETHELESS OF THE VIEW THAT THE BOMBAY HIGH "LOOKS GOOD".

3. OIL AND GAS TESTS AT H-1-1-1 FULLY CONFIRMED PRESENCE OF THREE OIL-BEARING HORIZONS (REF B) AND A MUCH HIGHER GAS-OIL RATIO THAN ORIGINALLY ESTIMATED. IT WILL THEREFORE BE NECESSARY TO EVENTUALLY ISOLATE THESE ZONES AND BLEED AWAY EXCESS GAS FROM THIS WELL (AND/OR OTHERS DESIGNATED FOR OIL PRODUCTION) TO BOOST OIL OUTPUT ADEQUATELY. THIS WOULD EXPLAIN IN PART THE ONGC/OFFSHORE DECISION TO SCRAP AN EARLIER (AND BOLDER) PLAN THAT WOULD HAVE LOCATED THE SECOND WELL ABOUT ONE MILE FROM H-1-1-1. THIS MORE CAUTIOUS STEP (300 METERS FROM H-1-1-1) WILL PROVIDE SUBSTANTIVE, AND LOCALIZED STRIKE, 9'60 AND OIL-CONTENT DATA SOONER. IT MAY ALSO CONFIRM CURRENT BELIEF THAT THE OIL-BEARING MIOCENE LIMESTONES OF THIS AREA MAY REQUIRE "ACIDIZATION" TO INCREASE POROSITY AND (HENCE) OIL FLOW.

4. ALTHOUGH DRILLSHIP IS IN PORT FOR REPAIRS, GARRETT IS DOUBTFUL INDIANS WILL BE ABLE TO COMPLETE REQUIRED WORK IN TIME FOR VESSEL TO DEPART AND BE IN POSITION BY MAY 21. IN THIS CASE, HE SAID, HE WILL FOREGO REPAIRS SINCE IT IS VITAL THAT THE RIG BE ON LOCATION BEFORE THIS YEAR'S MONSOON STORMS HIT THE ARABIAN SEA.
SCHNEIDER

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